

2004 Invasive Species Calendar

Weeds Gone Wild are plants introduced into new areas outside their native ranges that have become invasive in natural habitats. Introduced plants are also referred to as *alien*, *exotic*, *non-native*, and *non-indigenous*. Native plants occur in a particular habitat and ecosystem as a result of natural forces, excluding human activities. Invasive plants crowd out native species when introduced to new habitats. They reproduce and spread rapidly because they lack the natural controls present in their native lands.

For more information on the identification and management of invasive plants affecting natural areas, including fact sheets for some of the species in this calendar, take a look at the site (<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>).

Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas is a web-based project of the Alien Plant Working Group that provides information for the general public, land managers, researchers, and others on the serious threat and impacts of invasive alien plants to the native flora, fauna, and natural ecosystems of the United States. The site provides:

- An invasive plant list for the United States
- Illustrated fact sheets with control options
- Background on the problem including terminology
- Invasive species internet links
- And much more!

The Alien Plant Working Group provides public education, invasive plant management advice, networking, regional support, and policy guidance. For more details, please refer to the group's "Action Agenda for Invasive Plants" available on the website.

Invasive plant meetings, workshops, and other events are provided on the Weeds Gone Wild online calendar (http://www.eventcal.net/weeds_gone_wild). If you have an important invasive plant meeting, training, workshop or other event you'd like included on this calendar, please send an email to the Alien Plant Working Group Chairperson, jil_swearingen@nps.gov.



Plant Conservation Alliance

The **Plant Conservation Alliance** (PCA) is a consortium of federal government Member agencies and non-federal Cooperators representing various disciplines within the conservation field: biologists, botanists, habitat preservationists, horticulturists, resources management consultants, soil scientists, special interest clubs, non-profit organizations, concerned citizens, nature lovers, and gardeners. Since 1994, PCA has worked collectively to solve the problems of native plant extinction and native habitat restoration, ensuring the preservation of our ecosystem. Federal plant conservation resources are pooled at the national level to provide a focused, strategic approach to plant conservation at the local level on public and private lands, eliminating duplication of effort and increasing the effectiveness of these programs.

Each year, PCA awards thousands of dollars for on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects through a matching funds grant program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. However, native plant conservation does not consist of funding alone; as a public-private partnership, PCA also serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas, expertise and information between public and private organizations engaged in habitat restoration and preservation. These exchanges take place in various forms of public outreach, including e-mail lists, website, newsletter, and meetings. Committees include the Alien Plant, Medicinal Plant, Public Outreach, and Restoration Working Groups.

Using these efforts, PCA strives to achieve its mission:

“To protect native plants by ensuring that native plant communities and their populations are maintained, enhanced, and restored.”

For more information, go to our website (<http://www.nps.gov/plants>) or e-mail us (plant@plantconservation.org).